

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A method of providing a predetermined ~~an arbitrary~~ sound as an RBT (RingBack Tone) in a communication network, said method comprising:

~~a first step, conducted by~~ an HLR (Home Location Register) ~~Register's~~, of furnishing a call-originating exchanger with first information on whether an RBT is to be replaced or not and second information informing on a route to a sound database ~~providing means~~ through a response to a location request message received from the call-originating exchanger that sends the location request message to the HLR when a call connection is requested by a caller to a called terminal;

~~a second step, conducted by~~ the call-originating exchanger ~~[[, of]]~~ requesting a first trunk connection to ~~both of~~ a call-terminating exchanger and a separate, second trunk connection to the sound database ~~providing means~~ based on the response including the first and the second information, while furnishing the sound ~~providing means~~ database with third information identifying ~~[[a]]~~ the called terminal; and

~~a third step, conducted by~~ the sound database ~~providing means~~, of selecting an RBT-replacing sound based on the third ~~called identifying~~ information, and providing the selected RBT-replacing sound to the caller for a caller through the second trunk connection and the call-originating exchanger ~~the trunk connection is made to~~.

2. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein, if the call-originating exchanger detects through the call-terminating exchanger that the call is answered while the

selected RBT-replacing sound is being provided for the caller, the call-originating exchanger requests the sound ~~providing means~~ database to release the established second trunk connection to terminate transmission of the selected RBT-replacing sound.

3. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sound ~~providing means~~ database searches for the selected RBT-replacing sound specified for the called terminal through communication with a ~~storage~~ storage controller operating based on the internet protocol.

4. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the request ~~[[of]]~~ for the second trunk connection from the call-originating exchanger to the sound ~~providing means~~ database is selectively conducted based on the first information included in the response.

5. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first information indicates whether an RBT is to be replaced or not and is set in the HLR based on specific key information received from ~~a terminal of~~ the called terminal.

6. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the first information is written in a reserve field allocated in value-added service parameters of a subscriber's profile of a subscriber using the called terminal.

7. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sound ~~providing means~~ database selects ~~determines~~ the RBT-replacing sound based on at least one of  
who the caller is,  
which group, ~~the caller belongs to~~ among several groups classified by a subscriber using the  
called terminal, the caller belongs to, and/or call time and  
the caller's time zone.

8. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein ~~a signal requesting the call connection to the called includes terminal identifying~~ the third information also identifies ~~of the called and the caller.~~

9. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 8, wherein the ~~terminal identifying third~~ information includes ~~of the called and the caller is subscriber~~ telephone numbers of the called terminal and the caller, respectively.

10. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 3, wherein the storage ~~storage~~ controller changes a sound code of an RBT-replacing sound specified for the called terminal with another code through communication with a web server operating based on the internet protocol.

11. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein said another code is associated ~~a code related~~ with another already stored RBT-replacing sound in the sound ~~providing~~ means database or is a newly-assigned code for a newly stored RBT-replacing sound ~~[[after]]~~ received from the web server.

12. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 11, wherein, after being connected to the sound ~~providing means~~ database and the storage ~~storage~~ controller, the web server changes the RBT-replacing sound based on subscriber identifying information entered through an input web page.

13. **(new)** The method of claim 11, wherein the sound database searches for the selected RBT-replacing sound by

forwarding the third information received from the call-originating exchanger to the storage controller;

requesting the storage controller to, based on the forwarded third information, search for a

sound code assigned to the called terminal;

receiving a sound code found by and returned from the storage controller; and

providing the caller, via the second trunk connection and the call-originating exchanger, with the selected RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code as an RBT.

14. **(new)** The method of claim 13, wherein

the found sound code is transmitted from the storage controller to the sound database via the Internet protocol; and

the selected RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code is transmitted to the call-originating exchanger via the second trunk connection.

15. **(new)** The method of claim 13, wherein

the third information received from the call-originating exchanger and forwarded to the storage controller by the sound database also identifies the caller; and

the storage controller, based on identifications of both the caller and the called terminal included in the forwarded third information, searches for the sound code.

16. **(new)** The method of claim 13, wherein the storage controller is a server which

is separated from the call-originating exchanger, the call-terminating exchanger, the HLR and the sound database, and

has an RBT service table where subscriber numbers are associated with sound codes, respectively.

17. **(new)** The method of claim 1, wherein the response returned from the HLR to the

call-originating exchanger includes not only said first and second information but also routing information furnished by the call-terminating exchanger.

Serial No. 10/523,787

18.     **(new)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
the HLR maintaining, for each subscriber, a profile that includes information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the subscriber when called.